**Sociology (PhD)**

The PhD program in Sociology is designed to produce independent scholars able to research, teach or serve in a variety of settings. We offer comprehensive training in the knowledge and skills which constitute professional competence in the field. The curriculum is designed to equip students with a broad foundation in general sociology and in more specialized knowledge related to students’ career interests in teaching, research, governmental work, or public service.

PhD student work closely with faculty as they advance in the program. The program has particular strengths in the sub-fields of medical sociology, urban sociology, sociology of religion, and inequality and social justice.

**Curriculum**

The PhD in Sociology requires 60cr hours, comprehensive examinations, and a dissertation. Students who enter the program with a master’s degree in Sociology are required to complete 30cr hours of coursework at Loyola. The student’s thesis or research paper may also be certified at this time as meeting the department's master’s thesis requirement for the PhD.

**Course Requirements**

After the initial integrative coursework in preparation for the qualifying exams and the doctoral review, students move on to more advanced coursework. This involves specialized courses, individual study, and seminars in areas relevant for the student’s scholarly and professional development.

- **Introductory Courses**
  - SOCL 405 History Sociological Thought (3)
  - SOCL 406 Modern Sociological Theory (3)

- **Methodology and Research Courses**
  - SOCL 410 Logic of Sociological Inquiry (3)
  - SOCL 412 Qual Meth in Social Research (3)
  - SOCL 414 Statistical Methods Analysis I (3)
  - SOCL 415 Statis Methods Analysis II (3)

- **Select Fourteen Courses Toward Specialization** (42)
  - SOCL 418 Demography
  - SOCL 421 Theories Social Change
  - SOCL 423 Social Movements
  - SOCL 425 Inequality and Society
  - SOCL 426 Sociology of Gender
  - SOCL 427 Political Sociology
  - SOCL 428 Poverty and Social Welfare
  - SOCL 432 Socialization Thru Life Cycle
  - SOCL 438 The Family
  - SOCL 439 Community Change
  - SOCL 440 Organizations & Org Change
  - SOCL 441 Sociology of Religion
  - SOCL 442 Religious Conflict & Change
  - SOCL 446 Knowledge, Power & Expertise
  - SOCL 447 Sociology of Culture
  - SOCL 448 Technology & Material Culture

**Comprehensive Examinations**

Written examinations in two related special fields are normally taken after coursework is completed. Students must choose two Special Fields, or sub-fields in sociology, in which they wish to be examined. We strongly suggest that these exams be completed in the third year or the beginning of the fourth year. You may not take an exam if you have any Incompletes, or if you are on Academic Probation. The Department offers exams in Gender and Sexuality, Social Movements, Medical Sociology, Political Sociology, Race and Ethnicity, Sociology of Religion, Urban and Community Sociology, Sociology of Science and Technology, and Sociology of Immigration. Students may petition to take one of the two exams in another area (but not more than one) upon consultation with the Graduate Program Director. Such exceptions are not regularly granted. The only fields that will be considered are those established as sections within the American Sociological Association: http://www.asanet.org/asa-communities/asa-sections/current-sections.

The goals of the Special Field exams are to demonstrate:

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1. In planning the more specialized phase of their graduate program, doctoral students are encouraged to take full advantage of the resources of the university and, where pertinent, to take courses in other graduate departments.
sophisticated knowledge of the development and current theoretical and empirical debates in a sub-field

knowledge of important empirical patterns relevant to a sub-field

the capacity for analytic writing, including the ability to marshal evidence to make claims, the capacity to make logic comparisons, and the capacity to identify gaps and issues in fields.

the capacity to write in a clear, organized academic style, with few grammatical and spelling errors

The exam is a five-day, take-home exam, in which students answer 3 to 4 questions chosen by the committee. The questions are typically handed out on a Monday morning and completed by the end of the day on a Friday (or a similar time period). Students, who for medical, family, or work reasons, are unable to take the five-day exam, may petition the GPD to use a different exam form: a 30-40 page review that demonstrates your knowledge of the key developments and current debates in the field, key empirical patterns relevant to your field, and methodological techniques and tools commonly used in the sub-field. Students may want to model their papers on articles in The Annual Review of Sociology and similar periodicals. Again, this option is reserved for students who have extenuating circumstances that strongly limit their ability to take the 5-day exam. The Director will provide more guidance on expectations. Under no circumstances may students answer specific questions set by the Director and Reader: the student must produce a review essay.

Dissertation

Learning Outcomes

This degree prepares students for research and teaching positions in the academic, government, non-profit, and for-profit sectors.

Research learning outcomes:

• demonstrate knowledge of the broad theoretical orientations of the discipline
• demonstrate knowledge of two empirical sub-fields in the discipline
• frame sociological research questions both theoretically and empirically
• select appropriate data sources
• analyze and present data in accordance with ethical and professional standards
• use one or more data collection methods to carry out a major research project: interviews, participant observation, surveys, or archival evidence.
• analyze quantitative or qualitative data with respect to sociological claims or theories.
• write for publication
• present findings orally for lay or professional audiences

Teaching learning outcomes:

• assist an instructor of record with grading, tutoring, and class presentations
• teach as an undergraduate instructor of record, by developing the capacity to: design a syllabus; create and carry out assignments, assessments, and lectures; integrate Ignatian pedagogical techniques, including curia personalis; and reflective learning.